

**Press Contact**

Camellia So  
Tel: (852) 2555-5021  
e-mail: [GSpres@globalsources.com](mailto:GSpres@globalsources.com)

**Investor Contact in Asia**

Connie Lai  
Tel: (852) 2555-4747  
e-mail: [investor@globalsources.com](mailto:investor@globalsources.com)

**Investor Contact in U.S.**

Cathy Mattison  
LHA  
Tel: (1-415) 433-3777  
e-mail: [cmattison@lhai.com](mailto:cmattison@lhai.com)

## Global Sources reports fourth quarter and year-end 2015 results

- Reported fourth quarter revenue of \$61.6 million –
- Reported full year 2015 revenue of \$171.0 million –
- Posted IFRS EPS of \$0.79 and Non-IFRS EPS of \$0.52 for the fourth quarter of 2015 –
- Posted full year 2015 IFRS EPS of \$1.03 and Non-IFRS EPS of \$0.65 –
- Provides guidance for first half of 2016, expects revenue of \$78.0 million to \$80.0 million and IFRS EPS to range from \$0.13 to \$0.17 –

NEW YORK, March 17, 2016 – [Global Sources Ltd.](http://GlobalSourcesLtd.com) (NASDAQ: GSOL) reported financial results for the fourth quarter and year-ended Dec. 31, 2015.

“The highlight of the fourth quarter of 2015 was our very successful series of trade shows in Hong Kong, which included *Global Sources Electronics* - the world’s largest electronics sourcing trade show,” stated Merle A. Hinrich, Global Sources’ executive chairman. “During the year, we advanced the integration of our online and trade show services and increased our focus on helping buyers identify new, important and innovative products from among the millions of products online. Key initiatives include our *Analyst’s Choice* product sections and *Startup Launchpad*, a pavilion and conference within our electronics trade shows. Looking ahead, we remain focused on growing our core business by leveraging our differentiated offering that integrates the best of online with the best of trade shows.”

### **Financial highlights – Fourth quarter: 2015 compared to 2014**

- Revenue from continuing operations was \$61.6 million, as compared to \$60.1 million.
  - Exhibitions revenue was \$41.6 million, as compared to \$38.2 million.
  - Online revenue was \$15.3 million, as compared to \$18.0 million.
  - Print revenue was \$2.0 million, as compared to \$1.8 million.

- IFRS net profit was \$20.0 million, or \$0.79 per diluted share, as compared to \$9.3 million, or \$0.29 per diluted share.
- Non-IFRS net profit was \$13.0 million, or \$0.52 per diluted share, as compared to \$9.9 million, or \$0.31 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2014.
- Adjusted EBITDA was \$15.0 million, as compared to \$12.2 million for the fourth quarter of 2014.
- Total deferred income and customer prepayments were \$78.2 million as at Dec. 31, 2015, as compared to \$88.8 million as at Dec. 31, 2014.

Global Sources' CFO, Connie Lai, said: "During the fourth quarter of 2015, we completed the sale of our Shenzhen investment property, recording a net profit of \$7.6 million, net of transaction costs and related tax expenses. We continue to drive efficiencies throughout the organization, while remaining committed to creating shareholder value, maintaining a strong balance sheet, a solid cash position and no debt."

"As announced on March 15, CEO Spenser Au will retire at the end of 2016 following 39 years of service to Global Sources," continued Mr. Hinrich. "In his role as CEO for the past five years, Spenser was essential to the development of our fully integrated offering of online marketplaces and trade shows. Our strong and experienced management team will continue to build on his contributions as we transition to a successor."

#### **Financial highlights – Full year ended Dec. 31: 2015 compared to 2014**

- Revenue from continuing operations was \$171.0 million, as compared to \$179.3 million.
- IFRS net profit was \$29.9 million, or \$1.03 per diluted share, as compared to \$18.3 million, or \$0.55 per diluted share.
- Non-IFRS net profit was \$18.8 million, or \$0.65 per diluted share, as compared to \$22.5 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, for 2014.
- Adjusted EBITDA was \$30.5 million, as compared to \$37.3 million for 2014.

#### **Financial expectations for the first half of 2016 under IFRS**

- For the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016:
  - Revenue from continuing operations is expected to be in the range of \$78.0 million to \$80.0 million, as compared to \$85.9 million from continuing operations for the first half of 2015.
  - IFRS EPS from continuing operations is expected to be in the range of \$0.13 to \$0.17, as compared to \$0.28 per diluted share from continuing operations in the first half of 2015. SBC and the amortization of intangibles as it relates to certain equity compensation plans are estimated to be an expense of \$0.05 per diluted share for the first half of 2016.

- Non-IFRS EPS from continuing operations is expected to be in the range of \$0.18 to \$0.22, as compared to \$0.32 per diluted share from continuing operations for the same period in 2015.
- Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations is expected to be between \$12.5 million and \$13.4 million, as compared to \$18.1 million from continuing operations in the first half of 2015.

### **Recent Corporate Highlights**

- Announced CEO Spenser Au plans to retire after 39 years of service to the company. He will remain engaged until the end of 2016 to assist in the transition to a successor.
- Closed the sale of investment property on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor of the Shenzhen International Chamber of Commerce Tower in Shenzhen, China for a total consideration of approximately \$21.1 million.
- *Global Sources Exhibitions* were held in Johannesburg in November 2015.
- *Global Sources* series of fall trade shows were held in October 2015 at Hong Kong's AsiaWorld-Expo, including *Global Sources Electronics*, the world's largest electronics sourcing trade show.
  - In total, the fall trade shows had more than 8,000 booths.
  - Total attendance exceeded 84,600 and included buyers from more than 150 countries and territories.
- Launched three new industry specialized websites: *Drones & Robotics*, *Machinery & Parts* and *Auto Parts & Accessories*.
- Received the Gold corporate award for excellence in corporate governance and investor relations in *The Asset's* December 2015 issue. The company received *The Asset's* Gold and Titanium corporate award for the previous six years.

### **Conference call for Global Sources fourth quarter 2015 earnings**

Executive chairman Merle A. Hinrich and CFO Connie Lai are scheduled to conduct a conference call at 8:00 a.m. ET on March 17, 2016 (8:00 p.m. on March 17, 2016 in Hong Kong) to review these results in more detail. Investors in the United States may participate in the call by dialing (877) 502-9276, and non-Hong Kong international participants may dial (1-913) 312-6693. Investors in Hong Kong may participate by dialing (852) 3008-0382. The conference ID is 9464808 and participants are encouraged to dial 10 minutes prior to the call to prevent a delay in joining. A live webcast of the conference call is scheduled to be available on Global Sources' corporate site at <http://www.investor.globalsources.com>.

For those who cannot listen to the live broadcast, a webcast replay of the call is scheduled to be available on the company's corporate site for 30 days. A telephone replay of the call is also scheduled to be available through March 25, 2016. To listen to the telephone replay dial (888) 203-1112 or dial (1-719) 457-0820 outside the United States, and enter pass code 9464808. For those in the Hong Kong area, the replay dial-in number is (800) 901-108, and the pass code is 9464808.

## **About Global Sources**

Global Sources is a leading business-to-business media company and a primary facilitator of trade with Greater China.

The core business facilitates trade between Asia and the world using English-language media such as online marketplaces ([GlobalSources.com](http://GlobalSources.com)), trade shows, magazines and apps.

More than 1 million international buyers, including 95 of the world's top 100 retailers, use these services to obtain product and company information to help them source more profitably from overseas supply markets. These services also provide suppliers with integrated marketing solutions to build corporate image, generate sales leads and win orders from buyers in more than 240 countries and territories.

Now in its fifth decade, Global Sources has been publicly listed on the NASDAQ since 2000.

## **Global Sources' non-IFRS metrics**

Management believes non-IFRS metrics are useful measures of operations and provides IFRS to non-IFRS reconciliation tables at the end of this press release. Global Sources defines non-IFRS net profit as IFRS net profit excluding non-cash stock based compensation expense or credit, amortization of intangibles assets as it relates to certain equity compensation plans, profits or losses on acquisitions and disposals of investments, net of transaction costs and related tax expenses and/or impairment charges net of related taxes, for all historical and future references to non-IFRS metrics. Non-IFRS diluted net profit per share is defined as non-IFRS net profit divided by the weighted average of diluted common shares outstanding. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as profit before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, non-cash stock based compensation expense or credit, profits or losses on acquisitions and disposals of investments, net of transaction costs and impairment of goodwill and intangible assets.

## **Safe Harbor Statement**

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27-A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21-E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The company's actual results could differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements as a result of the risks associated with the company's business, changes in general economic conditions, and changes in the assumptions used in making such forward-looking statements.

– Tables Follow –

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(In U.S. Dollars Thousands, Except Number of Shares and Per Share Data)

	<u>As at December 31,</u> <b>2015</b>	<u>As at December 31,</u> <b>2014</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 70,356	\$ 90,223
Term deposits with banks.....	9,097	4,285
Financial assets, available-for-sale.....	-	3,952
Accounts receivables, net.....	849	2,269
Receivables from sales representatives.....	8,802	7,900
Inventories.....	176	154
Prepaid expenses and other current assets.....	16,268	17,027
	<u><b>105,548</b></u>	<u><b>125,810</b></u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property and equipment.....	59,064	63,519
Investment properties.....	69,726	85,546
Intangible assets.....	26,309	37,732
Long term investment.....	100	100
Deferred income tax assets.....	389	196
Other non-current assets.....	951	1,108
	<u>156,539</u>	<u>188,201</u>
<b>Total assets.....</b>	<u><b>\$ 262,087</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 314,011</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable.....	\$ 7,383	\$ 9,418
Deferred income and customer prepayments.....	75,265	84,869
Accrued liabilities.....	15,183	19,100
Income tax liabilities.....	2,990	3,848
	<u><b>100,821</b></u>	<u><b>117,235</b></u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable.....	289	889
Deferred income and customer prepayments.....	2,917	3,971
Deferred income tax liabilities.....	4,493	6,842
	<u>7,699</u>	<u>11,702</u>
<b>Total liabilities.....</b>	<u><b>108,520</b></u>	<u><b>128,937</b></u>
<b>Equity attributable to Company's shareholders</b>		
Common shares.....	533	529
Treasury shares.....	(250,089)	(200,089)
Other reserves.....	157,562	161,242
Retained earnings.....	239,812	209,924
<b>Total Company shareholders' equity.....</b>	<u><b>147,818</b></u>	<u><b>171,606</b></u>
Non-controlling interests.....	5,749	13,468
<b>Total equity.....</b>	<u><b>\$ 153,567</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 185,074</b></u>
<b>Total liabilities and equity.....</b>	<u><b>\$ 262,087</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 314,011</b></u>

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS**  
(In U.S. Dollars Thousands, Except Number of Shares and Per Share Data)

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015 (Unaudited)	2014 (Unaudited)	2015 (Unaudited)	2014 (Unaudited)
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Exhibitions .....	\$ 41,629	\$ 38,157	\$ 91,854	\$ 88,941
Online and other media services (Note 2).....	17,295	19,738	70,242	82,430
Miscellaneous .....	2,693	2,210	8,929	7,911
	<u>61,617</u>	<u>60,105</u>	<u>171,025</u>	<u>179,282</u>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Sales (Note 3) .....	17,898	19,906	50,231	56,095
Event production.....	10,871	9,751	24,533	23,333
Community and content (Note 3).....	5,879	6,753	20,535	22,267
General and administrative (Note 3 & 4).....	11,625	11,603	43,697	48,004
Information and technology (Note 3).....	3,495	3,075	13,348	12,126
<b>Total Operating Expenses.....</b>	<b>49,768</b>	<b>51,088</b>	<b>152,344</b>	<b>161,825</b>
Profit on sale of property.....	9,791	-	9,791	-
<b>Profit from Operations.....</b>	<b>21,640</b>	<b>9,017</b>	<b>28,472</b>	<b>17,457</b>
Interest income.....	103	244	792	1,223
Gain on sale of available-for-sale securities .....	39	-	188	11
Interest expenses .....	(12)	(47)	(83)	(186)
<b>Profit before Income Taxes .....</b>	<b>21,770</b>	<b>9,214</b>	<b>29,369</b>	<b>18,505</b>
Income tax expense.....	(2,187)	(534)	(4,609)	(1,646)
<b>Net Profit from continuing operations .....</b>	<b>\$ 19,583</b>	<b>\$ 8,680</b>	<b>\$ 24,760</b>	<b>\$ 16,859</b>
<b>Net Profit / (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income tax (Note 5) .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>5,629</b>	<b>1,982</b>
<b>Net profit .....</b>	<b>\$ 19,583</b>	<b>\$ 8,640</b>	<b>\$ 30,389</b>	<b>\$ 18,841</b>
Net (profit)/loss attributable to non-controlling interests from:				
Continuing operations .....	434	499	(765)	548
Discontinued operations .....	-	142	264	(1,059)
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>(501)</b>	<b>(511)</b>
<b>Net profit attributable to the Company's shareholders from:</b>				
<b>Continuing operations.....</b>	<b>\$ 20,017</b>	<b>\$ 9,179</b>	<b>\$ 23,995</b>	<b>\$ 17,407</b>
<b>Discontinued operations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5,893</b>	<b>923</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 20,017</b>	<b>\$ 9,281</b>	<b>\$ 29,888</b>	<b>\$ 18,330</b>
<b>Diluted net profit per share attributable to the Company's shareholders from:</b>				
<b>Continuing operations.....</b>	<b>\$ 0.79</b>	<b>\$ 0.29</b>	<b>\$ 0.83</b>	<b>\$ 0.52</b>
<b>Discontinued operations.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 0.79</b>	<b>\$ 0.29</b>	<b>\$ 1.03</b>	<b>\$ 0.55</b>
<b>Shares used in diluted net profit per share calculations.....</b>	<b>25,185,321</b>	<b>31,516,581</b>	<b>28,820,976</b>	<b>33,482,371</b>

\* Diluted net profit per share attributable to the Company's shareholders from discontinued operations is less than \$0.01

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS**  
(In U.S. Dollars Thousands, Except Number of Shares and Per Share Data)

Note: 1. Total revenue from both the continuing operations and discontinued operations during the three months and year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 was as follows:

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Continuing operations .....	\$ 61,617	\$ 60,105	\$ 171,025	\$ 179,282
Discontinued operations .....	-	2,762	4,776	18,930
	<b>\$ 61,617</b>	<b>\$ 62,867</b>	<b>\$ 175,801</b>	<b>\$ 198,212</b>

Note: 2. Online and other media services consists of:

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Online services .....	\$ 15,296	\$ 17,983	\$ 64,421	\$ 75,895
Print services.....	1,999	1,755	5,821	6,535
	<b>\$ 17,295</b>	<b>\$ 19,738</b>	<b>\$ 70,242</b>	<b>\$ 82,430</b>

Note: 3. Non-cash compensation expenses associated with the several equity compensation plans and Global Sources Directors Share Grant Award Plan included under various categories of expenses are as follows:

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Sales .....	\$ 116	\$ 123	\$ 418	\$ 409
Community and content.....	23	21	88	16
General and administrative.....	316	319	1,418	1,215
Information and technology .....	44	45	225	217
	<b>\$ 499</b>	<b>\$ 508</b>	<b>\$ 2,149</b>	<b>\$ 1,857</b>

Note: 4. General and administrative expenses consist of:

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
General and administrative expenses before amortization of intangible assets, impairment charge on intangible assets and foreign exchange losses .....	\$ 9,890	\$ 9,345	\$ 37,290	\$ 36,343
Amortization of intangible assets .....	1,250	994	4,314	6,873
Impairment charge on intangible assets .....	-	4	-	2,242
Foreign exchange losses .....	485	1,260	2,093	2,546
	<b>\$ 11,625</b>	<b>\$ 11,603</b>	<b>\$ 43,697</b>	<b>\$ 48,004</b>

Note: 5. Net Profit from discontinued operations, net of income tax consist of:

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Profit on sale of subsidiary .....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,382	\$ -
Income tax expense .....	-	-	(361)	-
Profit on sale of subsidiary, net of income tax .....	-	-	6,021	-
Profit /(loss) from discontinued operations, net of income tax .....	-	(40)	(392)	1,982
	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (40)</b>	<b>\$ 5,629</b>	<b>\$ 1,982</b>

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**ACTUAL IFRS to NON-IFRS RECONCILIATION**  
(In U.S. Dollars Thousands, Except Number of Shares and Per Share Data)

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>IFRS diluted net profit per share</b>	<b>\$ 0.79</b>	<b>\$ 0.29</b>	<b>\$ 1.03</b>	<b>\$ 0.55</b>
IFRS Net Profit	\$ 20,017	\$ 9,281	\$ 29,888	\$ 18,330
Non-cash stock based compensation expense (Note 1)	499	508	2,149	1,857
Amortization of intangibles (Note 2)	34	86	381	594
Impairment of goodwill and intangibles (Note 3)	-	4	-	1,682
Profit on sale of subsidiary (Note 4)	-	-	(6,021)	-
Profit on sale of property, net of transaction costs & related tax expenses	(7,550)	-	(7,550)	-
<b>Non-IFRS Net Profit</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,879</b>	<b>\$ 18,847</b>	<b>\$ 22,463</b>
<b>Non-IFRS diluted net profit per share</b>	<b>\$ 0.52</b>	<b>\$ 0.31</b>	<b>\$ 0.65</b>	<b>\$ 0.67</b>
Total shares used in non-IFRS diluted net profit per share calculations	25,185,321	31,516,581	28,820,976	33,482,371

**Notes:**

- (1) Actual SBC is calculated based on actual share price on date of the awards.
- (2) Amortization of intangible assets relating to certain non-compete agreements.
- (3) Impairment of intangibles are net of related taxes.
- (4) Profit on sale of subsidiary is net of related tax.

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**ADJUSTED EBITDA RECONCILIATION**  
(In U.S. Dollars Thousands)

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
IFRS profit from operations including discontinued operations	\$ 21,640	\$ 9,044	\$ 27,804	\$ 20,170
Depreciation and amortization including discontinued operations	2,623	2,614	10,326	13,061
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>24,263</b>	<b>11,658</b>	<b>38,130</b>	<b>33,231</b>
Non-cash stock based compensation expense	499	508	2,149	1,857
Impairment of goodwill and intangibles	-	4	-	2,242
Profit on sale of property, net of transaction costs	(9,791)	-	(9,791)	-
Adjusted EBITDA including discontinued operations	<b>\$ 14,971</b>	<b>\$ 12,170</b>	<b>\$ 30,488</b>	<b>\$ 37,330</b>

**GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GUIDANCE IFRS to NON-IFRS RECONCILIATION**  
(In U.S. Dollars Million, Except Number of Shares and Per Share Data)

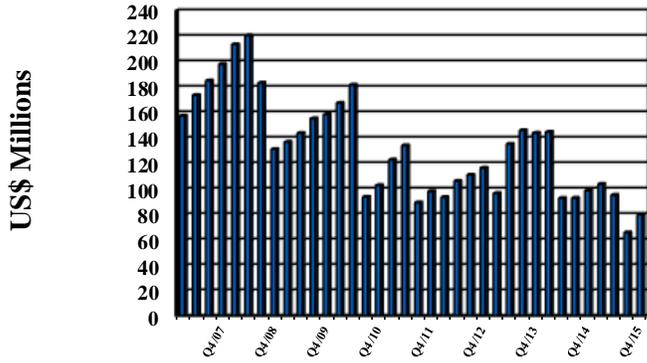
	<b>GUIDANCE</b>		<b>ACTUAL</b>
	Six months ended June 30, 2016		Six months ended June 30, 2015
Revenue from continuing operations	\$78.0	to	\$80.0
IFRS EPS from continuing operations	\$0.13	to	\$0.17
Non-cash stock based compensation expense (Note 1)	\$0.04		\$0.04
Amortization of intangibles (Note 2)	\$0.01		\$0.01
<b>Non-IFRS diluted net income per share from continuing operations</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>	to	<b>\$0.22</b>
Total shares used in non-IFRS diluted net income per share calculations	25,400,000		25,400,000
			31,534,448

**Notes:**

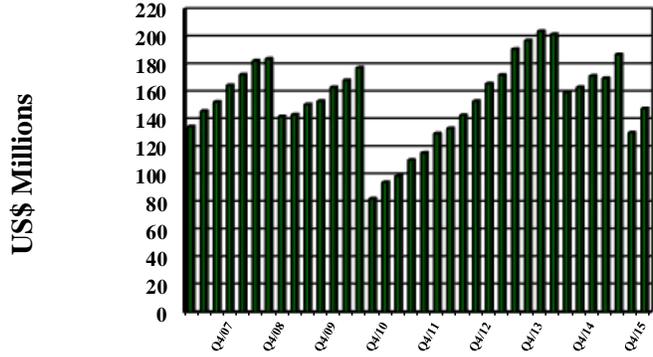
- (1) Actual SBC is calculated based on actual share price on date of the awards.  
(2) Amortization of intangible assets relating to certain non-compete agreements.

GLOBAL SOURCES LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

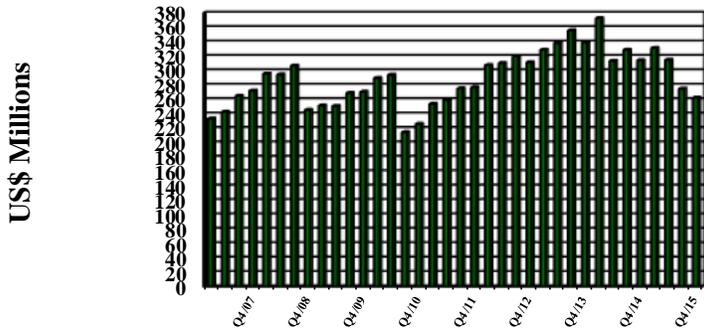
Total Cash and Securities



Total Shareholders' Equity



Total Assets



Total Deferred Income  
Customer Prepayments

